

Bisha) together with a large series from Africa. I agree with Mackworth-Praed and Grant (1952) in considering *S. lugens funebrea*, described from Nairobi, Kenya, inseparable from the nominate form. Dusky Turtle Doves from Arabia are, however, clearly separable from African specimens.

Streptopelia lugens arabica subsp. nov.

Description: Larger than nominate form. Four males from Arabia have wing lengths of 192 to 195 mm. as against 176 to 186, with an average of 182, for twenty-one African males. Three Arabian females have wing lengths of 188 to 192 mm. The largest wing measurement for an African female is 184 mm.

Type: An adult male in the British Museum (Nat. Hist.), registered No. 1937. 4.17.57, was taken by H. St. J. B. Philby at Shaib Hanjur, Upper Wadi Bisha, south-western Arabia on 2nd June 1936. Presumably the bird was in its breeding area, as the collector noted on the label that it had enlarged testes and that another pair were seen courting nearby.

Measurements: Wing 193 mm., culmen from skull 22 mm., from feathers 19 mm., tarsus 25 mm., tail 122 mm.

Distribution: The highlands of south-western Arabia.

The Arabian specimens are browner and paler in colour than the majority of nominate *lugens* but this may be due in part to wear and bleaching.

Reference:

Mackworth-Praed, C. W. and Grant, C. H. B. (1952). *African Handbook of Birds* Ser. 1, Vol. 1: 490.

Nesting of the Paradise Crow, *Lycocorax pyrrhopterus* (Bonaparte) and the Spangled Drongo, *Dicrurus hottentottus* (Linn.) in the Moluccas

by S. A. PARKER

Received 4th February, 1963

Lycocorax pyrrhopterus, of which three races are recognised, is confined to the Moluccas; with *Semioptera wallacii* it is the only bird of paradise endemic to this region. Bernstein, writing in 1864, described it as a bird of thick forest, living in the canopy of moderately high trees, and more often heard than seen. It appeared to exist solely on fruit; its call, a short, monotonous, interrupted 'wuhk' or 'wunk' which his collectors likened to the ringing bark of a dog, could be heard especially in the morning and evening. This represents the sum total of our knowledge concerning the habits of this species.

Schoenwetter (1944) recorded three eggs of this species: one collected in 1862 by Bernstein on Halmahera, (measuring 38.9 x 26.7 mm.); one collected in 1865 by the same collector on Obi, (40 x 28.4 mm.), and a third in the Nehr Korn Collection, of uncertain origin, (41 x 29 mm.). The smallest egg is from Halmahera, and this may be explained by the fact that birds from this area belong to the smallest race, *L. p. pyrrhopterus*. The above eggs are said by Schoenwetter (*loc. cit.*) to resemble in markings

those of *Emberiza citrinella* and *Phragamaticola aëdon*. Judging from the eggs described below, these appear to be apt comparisons.

On 24th December 1929 F. Shaw Mayer obtained two nests of *Lycocorax*, each containing one egg, at Patani, on Halmahera. The eggs are now in the British Museum collection. The first nest, according to field notes accompanying the egg, was large and basin-shaped, built of roots and moss, and lined with soft woodchips. It was placed about 23ft. above the ground; the nest site is not mentioned, though presumably it was in a tree. The nest was noted as being saturated with rains. The single fresh egg (B.M. No. 1941. 1.2.98) tallies with Schoenwetter's description; it is of a pinkish-stone ground colour, marked all over in an irregular pattern with sparsely distributed lines of violet-brown and hairstreaks of pale lilac, and measures 37 x 26.35 mm. Faint orange stains may be attributed to the wet woodchips.

The second nest was merely recorded as similar to the first; that the egg it contained was at a later stage of incubation than the first seems to confirm that the species lays only one egg per clutch. The egg (B.M. No. 1941. 1.2.99) is identical in colour and markings to the first, but slightly smaller, measuring 35.2 x 25 mm. It also bears faint orange wood stains. Both eggs are slightly glossy.

There appears to be no record in literature of the nesting of *Dicrurus hottentottus atrocaeruleus* Gray, the race of the Spangled Drongo inhabiting Halmahera and Batjan in the Moluccas. On 11th December 1929, Shaw Mayer collected a nest with two eggs of this subspecies at Patani; one egg is now in the B.M. collection (B.M. No. 1941. 1.5.36). The nest is described in Shaw Mayer's field notes as shallow and cup-like, built of intertwined rootlets and twigs, and lacking a lining. It was approximately 67 ft. above the ground, not an uncommon height for drongo nests. The egg, which measures 29.5 x 21.55 mm., is reminiscent of the eggs of *Tchagra senegala* in colour and pattern; it is distinctly glossy, with a white ground upon which are distributed hairlines, blotches and suffusions of secondary pale greys and lilacs, most in evidence at the larger end, with darker blotches and spots of liver-brown and sepia capping the larger end.

References:

- Bernstein, H. A. (1864). Ueber einen neuen Paradiesvögel und einige andere neue Vogel. *Journ. f. Orn.* 72: 401-410.
Schoenwetter, M. (1944). Die eier der Paradiesvögel. *Beitrag Fortpfl. Biol. Vogel.* 20: 1-18.

Further notes on the African Finfoot, *Podica senegalensis* (Vieillot)

by THE LATE LORD WILLIAM PERCY

Received 12th February, 1963

In amplification of Pitman's notes (*Bull. B.O.C.* 82; 9) the results of some eleven years' investigation of the finfoot may be of interest.

Though not easy to study, it is far from being as uncommon as is usually represented. Indeed, in my own experience, it is very widely